

THE LETTER

November 1992

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Austin Area Translators
and Interpreters Association

AATIA Holds Down Dues, Debuts Data Base for 1993

As the year ends, the incumbent AATIA leadership leaves a legacy of hard work on old and new projects, most importantly the implementation of a data base.

Renewal notices coming in December will bring the good news that dues will remain at their present low levels for yet another year: \$15 for individuals, \$15 for not-for-profit corporations, and \$50 for corporations not owned by members.

Besides the intangibles of professional development and networking, the dues pay for two very tangible benefits: *The AATIA Letter* and the *Translation and Interpretation Services Directory*. To keep dues low, the Board has authorized a trial of advertising in *The Letter*.

The renewal notices will include a questionnaire; responses to it will go into the data base and be used to streamline operations, saving money, time, and energy.

The data base will make it easier to publish an improved *TISD* in 1993 and thereafter. Members who wish to be listed as individuals and as a business may obtain an additional listing for an extra \$15 and must complete a separate questionnaire.

The data base will also generate mailing labels for various purposes: the newsletter, balloting and notices, and public relations.

It will also help potential clients find AATIA translators and interpreters. For example, when someone seeks an Arabic escort interpreter, the member fielding the inquiry can consult the data base for matches. The potential client may then contact and negotiate terms with the matched interpreters.

AATIA will also use the data base to track financial transactions and *TISD* distribution to AATIA members and to potential consumers of their services.

Marian Schwartz, who chairs the Data Base Committee, asked for volunteers to help

with data entry, the most labor-intensive part of this process. She also pointed out that only those who send in dues and questionnaires by the January 31, 1993, deadline will be listed in the *TISD*.

Once all the information has been entered into the data base, then arranged and indexed for publication, each listed member will have a chance to review his or her entry before the *TISD* goes to the printer.

Since the data base will serve many purposes, the questions are both numerous and specific. Space is allowed for "other" responses, although ordinary data base searches may miss this information. Fabio Missana, who designed AATIA's data base, said that standard responses will make electronic matches between members and clients more likely.

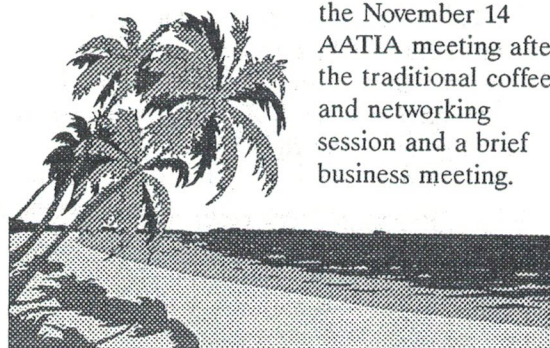
As always, AATIA solicits member feedback and provides questionnaire space for comments on improving the questionnaire itself and AATIA's other projects. These suggestions will be used to help plan activities for 1993.

San Diego Days to be Detailed

It's not too late to register for ATA's Annual Conference in San Diego November 4-8. CONTACT ATA HQ for info.

Members who can't go should either mail their proxies for ATA's election to ATA HQ or send them with local members who do attend.

AATIA members returning from San Diego will report on their conference activities at the November 14 AATIA meeting after the traditional coffee and networking session and a brief business meeting.



THE MAILBAG OVERFLOWETH



Maybe "overfloweth" exaggerates slightly. Actually, only one member wrote to the Editor this month, prompted by last issue's article on Texas Dept. of Commerce (DoC) policies regarding translation and interpretation.

Dear Editor:

A friend called me and said she had been asked by the DoC to check a translation of an English text for a German trade fair, and she asked for my help.

The translation was great. However, a secretary with no knowledge of German had to do the editing, typing, layout, etc. Then the text had to be shortened to exactly the length of the English text. Pictures were added, so the text had to be squeezed into a certain visual format, and the hyphenating was done with the English-version program on the PC.

I spent almost two days with her correcting mistakes that popped up during all these stages. The original translator had been paid for the translation, and no more funds were available for the rest of the job. The DoC contract with him and the bidding for it should have included seeing the project make it to final print without the "gross errors" cited in Pat Thickstun's article.

Another case came across my fax last spring, when the DoC needed something to be translated for distribution at an event in Frankfurt. A local business woman did the translation "as a favor" to the DoC, then ran out of time and asked me to help her out, which I did. There was then no time to follow up on the text after it arrived at the DoC, because the brochure had to go into print right away.

We should give a set of guidelines to prospective clients along with our membership list. But every translator should also have copies available to hand to individual clients when [discussing] what is required of the translator. In this age of desktop publishing many translations

should include dealing with the format. Most ordinary clients are not aware of the problems involved and innocently commit "gross errors" in the name of the translator.

The DoC is staffed with a lot of friendly, well-intentioned people, and maybe with a little help from AATIA their translations could be done "in-Texas" instead of "in-country".

Helga von Schweinitz

Many translators do pro bono work, but you're the first I've heard about whose charity is a state agency! As a taxpayer I thank you.

You make an important point about considering all the steps of the process, from the source-language text to the translation's final use.

AATIA's current Translation and Interpretation Services Directory does include a section containing guidelines put out by ATA, NAJIT, and others. Members can photocopy them and distribute them to clients.

AATIA needs an Editor for the 1993 edition. You and other members may CONTACT Marian Schwartz if you have suggestions for that job or for improving this section of our directory.

Editor

Volunteers Sign Up Here:

TISD SUPPLEMENT MAILED. By now all members should have received the 1992 Supplement to the *AATIA Translation and Interpretation Services Directory*. Those who haven't should CONTACT Marian Schwartz. She singled out Ingrid Lansford as deserving a standing ovation for the many hours at the computer keyboard listing new members and updating old entries. Schwartz also asked for volunteers to help begin work on the '93 *TISD*.

NEW YEAR'S PARTY. Circle January 9, 1993 on your calendar. The AATIA Board wants to celebrate the new year with regular meetings during the day and a party that same evening. The next issue of *The Letter* will give details, but until then, the party can't happen without a planner. Please CONTACT Pat Bobeck to volunteer.

BY-LAWS TO BE REVISED. David Jones will chair a committee tasked with revising AATIA's by-laws and needs volunteers to CONTACT him to help with this project. The curious will find the current by-laws in the front of the *TISD*.

Interpretation Art Demonstrated

AATIA interpreters launched the first meeting of the Interpretation Special Interest Group (AATIAISIG) and displayed their arts at AATIA's regular September 12 meeting.

Fritz Hensey interpreted a legal deposition, Fran Haug simultaneously interpreted a speech, Maurine McLean interpreted a Q & A session between a hearing-impaired subject, Jason Coe, and the audience, and Mie Arntson interpreted a simulated trans-Pacific phone interview between Allan Adams and Bunichi Ohtsuka. Al Bork supplied headsets to the audience.

After the regular meeting 18 individuals* met to found the AATIAISIG. Sonia Alonso volunteered to take minutes. They discussed future plans for the SIG, focusing on workshops in areas ranging from specific skills to peer review.

Members were encouraged to join national societies such as NAJIT, which co-sponsored Austin workshops with AATIA in 1989 and 1991, and to take the Federal Court Interpreters Certification Exams. The pilot, written, and oral exams are scheduled respectively for January, April, and October 1993. For information call Dr. Roseann Duenas Gonzalez (602/621-7213).

For the next AATIAISIG meeting (see CALENDAR) Isabel McSpadden will lead the group through memory training exercises. The group will also record and later critique simultaneous interpretation of the meeting itself.

*Sonia H. Alonso, Mie Arntson, Lize Balmaceda, Wilenne Berber, Albert G. Bork, Carmen Gómez, Cristina Helmerichs D., Fritz Hensey, David Hoover, Mark Juditz, Ben Maya, Maurine McLean, Isabel Guerra McSpadden, J. Henry Phillips, Diana M. Rodríguez, Harcourt M. Stebbins, Alexis Takvorian, Anna Zabelina.

NEWS BYTES

TRANSLATOR PUBLISHES TWO. Kudos to Patricia Thickstun, translator of two books published in 1992: *Atom-Photon Interactions: Basic Processes and Applications* by Cohen-Tannoudji, Dupont-Roc, and Grynberg (Wiley), a graduate-level textbook, and *Universal Constants* by Cohen-Tannoudji (McGraw Hill) an exploration of physics from Galileo to Einstein.

SAN ANTONIO MEMBER LAUDED. Carlos Freymann, a new AATIA member, was recently applauded in the *San Antonio Light* for his work as event chair for the San Antonio World Trade Association's *Diez y Seis* celebration.

TRAVELING PRIZE. Harcourt Stebbins of Lake Charles, Louisiana won AATIA's fictional trophy for the member coming the farthest for a regular meeting. Other travelers included Wilenne Berber from Ft. Worth, Sonia Alonso and Carmen Gómez from San Antonio, and David Hoover from Tyler. New members Diana M. Rodríguez

from Houston, Isabel Guerra McSpadden from Lubbock, and Lize Balmaceda from Stafford also attended, as did Marlene Rall from Mexico City, who was visiting her sister Fran Haug.

NEW TRANSLATOR/INTERPRETER GROUP. AATIA sends a Texas howdy to a new neighbor! For information about the Arkansas Translators Interpreters Network, write ATIN, PO Box 503, Little Rock, AR 72203.

MORE NEW FACES. Besides those mentioned above, AATIA welcomes new members Consuelo Bramble, David L. Humphreys, and Leonardo Mendes, Irina B. Plumlee, and Margarete Ziemer from Austin, Steve Cunningham from Cedar Park, and Maria Vance-deVries from Westminster, Colorado. They bring our membership to 161.

TSK TSK DEPARTMENT. Last month's City of Austin utility bill included a bilingual flyer whose Spanish side carried the self-evident headline *Octubre is el mes del trauma cerebral*.

CONTACT!

Austin Area Translators & Interpreters Association

How to Join: Make out your 1993 dues check to AATIA (\$15 for individuals & non-profit corporate members, \$50 for other businesses) and mail it to the PO Box (below).

Officers:

President Patricia Bobeck
voice/fax 512/929-8513

Secretary Marian Schwartz
voice/fax 512/442-5100

VP-Prof. Development David G. Jones
voice 512/451-4381; fax/modem 452-9937

VP-Communications Patricia Thickstun
voice 512/396-8887; fax 396-4835

VP-Finance Howard Simms
voice 512/834-8270

VP-Membership Vacant

The AATIA Letter

Editor R. Michael Conner
voice 512/474-7012; fax/modem 474-2895

Advertising Patricia Thickstun (see above)

American Literary Translators Association (ALTA)

Box 830688, U of Texas at Dallas
Richardson, TX 75083
voice 214/690-2093

American Translators Association (ATA)

1735 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 903,
Arlington, VA 22202-3413
voice 703/892-1500; fax 892-1501

National Assoc. of Judiciary Interpreters & Translators (NAJIT)

Plaza Executive II Suite 400, 125 Lincoln Ave.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
voice 505/984-8161

THE CALENDAR

AATIA meets at 1:00 pm on the 2nd Saturday of odd-numbered months in the Reception Room of the Austin History Center (AHC), 810 Guadalupe (unless otherwise announced). The Board of Directors meets at the same time on even-numbered months in the O Henry Room of the AHC.

IN AUSTIN

- NOV 14 10 am: Interpretation SIG meeting at the Reception Room of the AHC.
Info: Cristina Helmerichs D. 452-5895 or Albert Bork 837-6448.
1 pm: Reports on '92 ATA conference at AATIA member meeting.
- NOV 21 9-12 & 2-5 pm: ATA accreditation exams, UT Campus, Batts Hall 106-107. Info: David Jones & ATA.
- DEC 12 1 pm AATIA Board meeting. 1993 Calendar markup session.
- DEC 16 6 pm: Literary Translation SIG meeting at O'Brien's, 624 W. 34th St. Info: Marian Schwartz.
- JAN 9, '93 11 am: Interpretation SIG meeting.
1 pm: Member meeting.
8 pm: New Year's Party! Info: Pat Bobeck.

BEYOND AUSTIN

- NOV 4-7 SAN DIEGO - "Frontiers", 33rd Annual ATA Conference. Princess Resort. Info: ATA HQ.



PO Box 13122
Austin, TX 78711-3122

Meeting 1 pm Nov 14 1992
Topic: ATA Annual Conf.
Site: Austin History Center